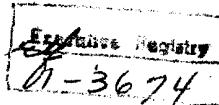


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OGC HAS REVIEWED.



24 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: Jury Duty for [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

REFERENCE: Memorandum of 20 November 1950 to the Executive from Acting ADO, Subj: Jury Duty

25X1A

1. The referenced memorandum requests the Executive to authorize the obtaining of an exemption from jury duty for [REDACTED]. The requirements for jury duty, and the basis for exemption therefrom, vary considerably throughout the multifarious jurisdictions. Very generally, however, all citizens are subject to jury duty in the jurisdictions within which they live.

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2. Any exemptions normally are up to the individual judges sitting at the time juries are impaneled. Certain categories, such as lawyers, minors and criminals, are exempted on the basis that service by them would be against public policy. Individual exemptions are granted on demonstration of undue personal hardship, lack of capacity, or other unusual circumstances which convince the judge that the individual should not serve. Naturally some judges are more lenient than others, but in our experience the majority feel strongly that jury service is a civic duty which is commonly held too lightly or to be a nuisance and, consequently, they are reluctant to exempt qualified persons.

3. Occasionally reaction to an official request has been slow and brings queries about what would happen if the individual in question became sick or died. Consequently, as a matter of policy, official action by this Agency has been restricted to requests for temporary postponements in situations where emergency conditions or temporary lack of alternates has made the presence of the individual of grave importance. Such requests have usually, but not always, been honored. If not, there is little that can be done. I feel that in part we have been successful because we have restricted our requests to truly important cases.

4. In some jurisdictions exemption on the basis of grounds stated would not be permissible under the applicable statutes. In others, general exemptions would be frowned on by the judiciary. I therefore

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25X1A

recommend against an Agency request for a blanket exemption for [redacted] and suggest that whenever an individual summoned for jury duty feels his official obligations present unusual circumstances wherein his absence for jury service would be inimical to the national interest, he should inform headquarters and, if appropriate, the Executive might ask for a postponement to accommodate the temporary situation.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

Enccl: Memo of 20 Nov to Exec,  
fr Acting ADO, subj:  
Jury Duty

LRHouston/mll

cc: ✓ Subject  
Chrono  
Central Records  
Legal Decision  
Vital Document

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